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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Poland

REPORT

SUBJECT Construction of the Babie Doly Airfield near Gdynia

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DATE ACQUIRED

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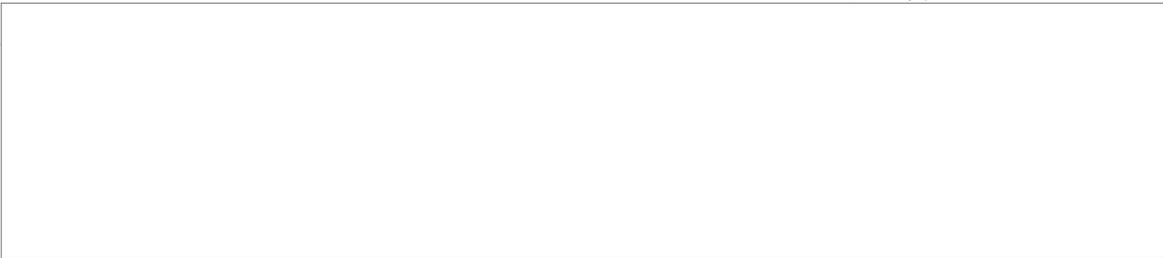
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1. "Construction of a new military airfield started in March 1952 near Gdynia, north from the military harbor Oksywie. This airfield has been called 'Babie Doly', after the nearby gorge where the Polish Immigration Board operated quarantine before the war. The whole area between Kosakowo to the north, Obluze to the south, and the coast around the former quarantine barracks has been taken over by the Ministry of Defense for the new field.
2. "To date, three runways have been completed each about 2 km long 30 m wide, with a concrete layer about 30 cm deep. Four more runways are under construction. They should be finished this winter or, at the latest, next spring.
3. "The whole area has been levelled, and part of the gorge will be filled with earth. Parallel to the runways, on the eastern side of the field, large hangars are under construction, also buildings for headquarters, officer billets and barracks. The headquarters, barracks, and warehouses are hidden by trees and extremely well camouflaged. They can be detected from neither the sea nor the land side. The middle part of the gorge has been left as before. Here, special buildings have been constructed for the storage of spare parts. Underground gasoline depots have also been built here.
4. "The construction groundwork is being done by special SP brigades (approximately 800 young boys) and by at least 600 free civilian workers, mostly neighborhood recruits. The SP boys are housed in tent camps, the free workers in dormitories established in a hotel requisitioned for the construction period.
5. "A special Army labor unit is quartered in the military barracks at the field. The free workers and SP boys are used mostly in the groundworks; the construction of hangars, workshops and stores is undertaken by Army labor exclusively. It is estimated that two of these labor battalions, about 1000 men, are now detailed on this construction project.

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6. "A unit of 'marines' is already quartered in part of the airfield barracks. It is said that they comprise at least one battalion.
7. "The airmen coming to the field at present include a number of Soviet instructors. Approximately 40 Soviet-type 'Jak' fighters are being used for training exercises. The main training is in teams. A single plane is very seldom seen practicing over the airfield. Groups of three or nine planes are constantly in the air.
8. "The Headquarters building looks too large to be serving only an airfield. There are rumors that here in Babie Doly will be located the headquarters for the defense of the entire coastal sector from Kolońrzég on the west to the present Polish-Soviet frontier on the east. It is also said that special liaison officers of the Air Force and the antiaircraft artillery will be attached to this headquarters. They are now dispersed all over the region.
9. "The Babie Doly area is surrounded by barbed wire fences. Special posters warn that any trespassers in the No-Man's-Land around these fences will be shot. Within the restricted area 'marines' constantly patrol. They often check the personal identifications of the workers. If a person does not have his identification document with him, he is immediately arrested."

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